United Nations A/C.6/73/SR.4

General Assembly
Seventy-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
12 December 2018

Original: English

Sixth Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 October 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Ponce (Vice-Chair) ..... (Philippines)
later: Ms. Kremžar (Vice-Chair) ..... (Slovenia)

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18-16513 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Biang (Gabon), Ms. Ponce (Philippines), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/73/125)

1. **Mr. Yaakob** (Malaysia) said that his Government condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which had caused nothing but loss of innocent life and damage to public property and infrastructure. The actions of terrorists were unacceptable. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group and it should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for self-determination; almost all acts of terrorism were committed by groups that felt they had been brutally oppressed and had nowhere to seek redress. It was therefore vital to address the root causes of terrorism – otherwise the vicious cycle of terrorism and violence would never end.

2. Combating terrorism required a whole-of-nation approach, and Malaysia had accordingly taken the necessary steps to strengthen its legal frameworks and mobilize the relevant authorities to intensify enforcement efforts. Terrorism had been criminalized under legislation adopted in 2012 and 2014. At the international level, Malaysia was a State party to 9 out of 14 international legal instruments concerning counter-terrorism and to the 2007 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism; it had been a partner in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL since September 2015.

3. Nevertheless, Malaysia remained concerned about the danger that returning foreign terrorist fighters might disseminate their ideology to the public at large. Winning the hearts and minds of the returning fighters and the public had become a key part of all the Government's efforts. Countering the narratives of terrorists and extremists, implementing deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for foreign terrorist fighters and disseminating mainstream religious views to the public, especially young people, were among the measures taken to eliminate the threat of terrorism.

4. In addition to domestic efforts, strengthening bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation, enhancing the exchange of information, sharing expertise and improving counter-messaging mechanisms were necessary measures for countering a threat that did not recognize borders and nationalities. Malaysia welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284, concerning the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the launch of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism. Those two important texts could contribute to the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

5. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his delegation's support for the work of the United Nations in combating terrorism.

6. **Ms. Philips-Umezurike** (Nigeria) said that terrorist acts were insidious and usually destabilized the structures of governance, with adverse effects on development; hence there was a need to develop an all-inclusive, collaborative approach to deterring and annihilating terrorism. Nigeria was no stranger to the activities of terrorists, and in particular, Boko Haram, but its Government had confronted and decimated that group and had put in place bold and robust strategies to continue to address its heinous atrocities. In achieving that outcome, it had greatly been assisted by many neighbours and partners, especially Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin.

7. The counter-terrorism strategy of Nigeria was firmly anchored in respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The strategy had succeeded in uniting Nigerians from all walks of life towards defeating Boko Haram. Under the strategy, religious leaders were encouraged to use their places of worship to enlighten their followers about extremism and intolerance. The programme for deradicalization, rehabilitation, reorientation and reintegration of repentant Boko Haram members, a victim support fund, a presidential initiative for the north-east and a safe school initiative had facilitated humanitarian relief, socioeconomic stability and the resettlement of persons displaced by Boko Haram.

8. The war against terrorism on all fronts could only be won through the resolve of all States Members of the United Nations to work together and to ensure full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and conventions against terrorism and its financing, as well as with other instruments adopted at the regional level. She reaffirmed her Government's commitment to work closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities, consistent with its faith in the need for a collective fight against terrorism.

9. **Mr. Atlassi** (Morocco) said that the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 72/284 on the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the convening of the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-

Terrorism Agencies of Member States had sent a strong message about the international community's determination and solidarity in the fight against terrorism. In 2014, the world had witnessed the shocking takeover of large swaths of territory by terrorist groups and an unprecedented proliferation of terrorist groups affiliated with ISIL and Al-Qaida, groups that were bereft of all legitimacy under Islam. He reiterated his country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. Nothing could justify a terrorist act, and terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

10. Although ISIL had been defeated on the battlefield, its murderous ideology endured on social media, through which innocent youngsters were still being recruited. Its defeat had merely engendered new challenges: uncovering sleeper cells and lone wolves; exploiting the databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and crafting deradicalization and reintegration plans. In view of the return of foreign terrorist fighters, regional and international cooperation, especially on border security and the exchange of information was important, border security must be reinforced, and suitable means for the reintegration of such fighters, especially women and children, must be sought, as suggested in resolution 72/284.

11. Morocco was a co-Chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which had become a formidable counter-terrorism platform, having produced memorandums on best practices in border security and management and stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, such as the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon, adopted in 2014.

12. At the national level, Morocco had developed a strategy in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions that focused on security governance, upgrading of the legal framework for combating terrorism, human development, and adoption of new laws and religious reforms, including the institution of an academic authority responsible for interpreting passages from the Qur'an and the Hadith; programmes to deradicalize, rehabilitate and reintegrate foreign terrorist fighters; and the training of young preachers in the precepts of dialogue, tolerance, moderation, coexistence and respect, which the Muslim religion advocated.

13. Morocco had acceded to nearly all United Nations counter-terrorism instruments, and its deep commitment to international counter-terrorism efforts had recently been demonstrated by its signing of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism.

14. **Mr. Moussa** (Djibouti) said that the past two decades had witnessed a growing entanglement of traditional and non-traditional factors of insecurity. Eradicating terrorism and preventing violent extremism called for a multi-dimensional approach based both on enhanced involvement of the people and on better cooperation among national, regional and international institutions. His delegation accordingly applauded the convening by the Secretary-General of the first High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018. While unequivocally supporting the reforms of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture recently undertaken, he wished to emphasize that they would lack efficacy unless they were accompanied by enhanced bilateral technical assistance, capacity-building and transfer of technology.

15. Eastern Africa had been one of the first regions to be victim of the ideological assaults and attacks perpetrated by extremist terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab. Following their successive experiences of bloodshed, the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had become more resilient in the face of terrorism, and in February 2017, the Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, which his country had the privilege of hosting, had been born. The Center, the first of its kind in Africa, was devoted to strengthening regional coordination and developing a counter-narrative against extremist rhetoric transmitted through social media.

16. The purpose of the Center was in line with the action taken by Djibouti over the past ten years. As a bridgehead for international efforts to combat terrorism in the Horn of Africa and piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti had been quick to understand the harmful role of groups propagating extremist ideologies. In 2014, it had adopted a proactive approach, organizing meetings with the main religious leaders of the region to identify methodological tools for combating ideological recruitment targeting the most socially and intellectually vulnerable segments of society. The Government's counter-terrorism strategy was based on theological dialogue, the voluntary involvement of young people in public endeavours, and respect for and promotion of individual and collective freedoms.

17. Given its belief in a culture of peace and in international cooperation, Djibouti had recently signed on to the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World

Free of Terrorism and invited all States that had not yet done so to sign it as well.

18. **Mr. Shi** Xiaobin (China) said that international counter-terrorism was currently undergoing complex and profound changes. On the one hand, the international community had made progress in its military campaign against terrorism, resulting in the collapse of ISIL in the Middle East. On the other hand, the frequent occurrence of terrorist acts had not been fundamentally reversed. There was still a long way to go to eliminate international terrorism. As terrorism was a threat to all mankind, the international community should make a concerted effort to address it.

19. First, it must work hard to build a consensus, strengthen cooperation, reject double standards and geopolitical interests, and adopt a zero-tolerance and non-selective attitude towards terrorism. It must resolutely fight terrorists, regardless of where they were, what pretexts they used, which countries they targeted and what means they adopted. It should encourage dialogue among different ethnic groups and religions to avoid associating terrorism with any specific ethnic group or religion.

20. Second, the international community must also address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism. There were complex underlying causes of terrorism, but in the final analysis, it was directly linked to severe deficits in development, security and governance. All countries should be committed to eradicating poverty, improving people's livelihood, solving development problems and embracing a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. They should work towards advancing global security governance and new international relations featuring respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation.

21. Third, all countries should support the adoption by the United Nations and the Security Council of a leading and central role in international counter-terrorism cooperation. Member States must conscientiously implement relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and adopt a multi-pronged approach to combating terrorism. China expected the United Nations to fully unlock its potential and to do more towards eliminating international terrorism.

22. Fourth, in counter-terrorism operations, it was necessary to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries concerned, and observe the rules of international law governing the use of force and punishment for crimes. China looked forward to the speedy conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. To date, it had established bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism consultation mechanisms with more than 20 countries and participated in counter-terrorism cooperation efforts under a variety of international organizations.

23. China itself was a victim of terrorism. Combating the violent terrorist forces of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement was an important part of the international fight against terrorism. In recent years, the terrorist organization had stepped up its collusion with international terrorist forces, thus constituting a growing threat to regional and international security. His Government hoped that the international community would continue to support China in its efforts, through its counter-terrorism activities, to safeguard the security and stability of the region and the world at large.

24. **Mr. Thein** (Myanmar) said that no country was immune from modern-day non-traditional security challenges and terrorism. No country could effectively deal with terrorism alone. In recent years, the emergence of home-grown, lone-wolf terrorists had generated unprecedented fear and uncertainty in societies, since most terrorist attacks were directed against soft targets. The collective response to terrorism was difficult owing to the existence of numerous parallel and interlinked global terrorist networks. In that respect, the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters had become an evolving threat. Now more than ever, it was crucial to intensify concerted multilateral efforts to respond effectively to the increasingly transnational and multifaceted nature of terrorism. A comprehensive approach must be followed, in line with United Nations resolutions, including those on the reviews of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

25. Myanmar strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whoever committed. No religion, race, nationality or ethnicity should be associated with the radicalization and violent extremism that led to terrorism, nor should any be used to justify terrorism or terrorist acts. The Government of Myanmar had enacted counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering legislation in 2014 and was closely cooperating with INTERPOL and other international counterparts to counter terrorism both at the regional and the international levels. While intensifying its counter-terrorism efforts, Myanmar had also placed emphasis on preventive measures against violent extremism by promoting tolerance and interfaith and intercultural dialogue among different communities.

26. Myanmar had had painful experiences with terrorism in recent years. The crisis in Rakhine State in October 2016 and August 2017 had been ignited by the unprovoked and premeditated attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which had killed many security personnel and hundreds of innocent civilians, including members of ethnic minorities and pro-government Muslims. Because of such inhuman killings, thousands of people had fled their villages to other parts of Rakhine State. Terrorist brutality had also led to a massive exodus of Muslims to a neighbouring country. According to international intelligence sources as well as information from the interrogation of apprehended ARSA members, ARSA was guided and supported by a number of foreign terrorist groups, including Al-Qaida and ISIL, which had previously called for jihad against the Myanmar Government. If ARSA was allowed to operate freely, it would soon become part of the regional terrorist networks.

27. His Government denounced any form of political, moral or material support for terrorism and urged all States to refrain from such activities. Sheltering terrorist elements and discounting or ignoring the atrocities committed by any terrorist group amounted to condoning or supporting terrorism. It also was important to ensure that refugee status or humanitarian cover was not abused by terrorists for their own purposes, and to monitor the activities of terrorists, including those of ASRA and its networks in the region and beyond, in order to prevent further terrorist attacks in the region.

28. In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to providing support to its regional and international partners in the global fight against terrorism.

29. **Ms. Pejic** (Serbia) said that terrorism and violent extremism were global phenomena. In order to counter them, continued and widespread cooperation among States was needed. In that context, the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was of paramount importance. After its visit to Belgrade in March 2013, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had concluded that Serbia was the readiest and best-equipped country in the region to address possible terrorist acts. The Committee had made a follow-up visit from 27 to 29 March 2018 and had reported that evident progress had been made in all areas. It had confirmed the commitment of Serbia to implementing the Committee's recommendations and its full awareness of the individual areas and objectives set out in Security Council resolutions.

30. The number of foreign terrorist fighters recruited in the Western Balkans and South-East Europe was not negligible: almost 1,000 persons from the Western Balkans had been engaged in Syria and Iraq, many of them participating in brutal and suicide attacks. So far, about 40 persons from Central Serbia had taken part in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, representing the lowest percentage of foreign terrorist fighters in the region, although the situation was altogether different in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija, from where the highest percentage of foreign terrorist fighters travelled to foreign battlefields.

31. The country's Criminal Code provided for the punishment of Serbian citizens who participated in armed conflicts abroad, or in the organization thereof. However, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters was a challenge necessitating regional cooperation. Serbia had undertaken numerous measures to address the problem, including operational activities carried out either independently or in cooperation with partners, especially in the Western Balkans and in South-East Europe.

32. The prevention of violent extremism and radicalism leading to terrorism was of great importance. In December 2017, Serbia had amended its legislation on the freezing of assets to ensure more effective regulation of questions relating to the list of persons designated by the Security Council and other international organizations of which Serbia was a member, as well as the designation procedure itself. Serbia had also passed a law on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, which was aligned with the standards of the European Union and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

33. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that terrorism and related criminal activities were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation; they constituted serious crimes and must be prosecuted. The shielding and glorification of terrorists must not be tolerated.

34. The sensitive geographical location of Azerbaijan and unresolved armed conflicts in the region increased transborder threats. Since the end of the 1980s, as a mean of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare, terrorist attacks had been repeatedly perpetrated in his country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens. It was critical to intensify conflict resolution efforts in various parts of the world. Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often created conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists,

separatists and other organized criminal groups and networks.

35. All States must comply with their international obligations, including under relevant Security Council resolutions, to ensure that their respective territories were not used for terrorist, separatist or other related activities, in particular for financing and providing, directly or indirectly, any support to such activities. Terrorist acts carried out in the context of armed conflict could amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, entailing individual criminal responsibility. International cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as an important component, was the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related criminal offences.

36. Azerbaijan reiterated its determination to actively contribute to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The General Assembly had recently reviewed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and unanimously adopted a resolution which set a clear direction for the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and Member States over the next two years. Azerbaijan commended Kazakhstan for initiating the process leading to the adoption of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism.

37. The war on terrorism could not and must not be used to target any religion or culture. Support by the United Nations for successful initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the culture of peace and multiculturalism was essential for promoting tolerance, building inclusive and resilient societies and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

38. **Mr. Issetov** (Kazakhstan) said that in counter-terrorism the challenge was to combat the new type of terrorism being perpetrated by ISIL and Al-Qaida, which could be described as low-cost, localized terrorism. As a form of autonomous jihad, it was perhaps even more deadly, since it was being promoted locally by its supporters. The problem was compounded by foreign terrorist fighters. Central Asia constituted a potential target of terrorist groups due to the inflow of militants returning from Syria and Iraq. The spread of terrorist ideology through social media and the dark web, and the radicalization of vulnerable segments of society, was being combated, inter alia, through the implementation of the recommendations for improving the country's counter-terrorism activities made by the Counter-Terrorism Committee following its visit to Astana in May 2016.

39. In that connection, the Government had increased its budget to fight terrorism and extremism by fostering a tolerant religious consciousness and exhibiting zero tolerance for radical ideologies. It had also updated its laws concerning the arms trade and migration and had ratified 16 of the 19 universal legal instruments to prevent terrorism. His Government was also participating in regional cooperation efforts, including the establishment of intelligence and information exchanges and enhanced early warning signals systems, the harmonization of legislation, stricter border and customs controls, capacity-building and other practical joint measures. A common understanding of the term "terrorism" was needed to ensure that offenders were brought to justice; hence, it was important to finalize the comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible.

40. Kazakhstan expressed its warm appreciation to the countries that had signed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which it had initiated. His delegation encouraged other Member States and observers to become signatories to the Code, a manifestation of strong political will that would help to eliminate international terrorism and halt the related activities of drug trafficking, illegal trade in natural resources and cultural artefacts and the use of new technologies and payment methods by terrorists.

41. The time was now for States to work together to protect critical infrastructure, exchange biometric information on terrorists between regional and international databases, obtain timely information about groups and individuals with destructive intentions, enhance best practices and forensics, and fight terrorist ideas on the Internet and in cyberspace. Kazakhstan was committed to every possible multilateral action taken in a relentless effort to ensure a safe and secure world.

42. **Ms. Kim** Hye Mi (Republic of Korea) said that her country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated that all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation and whenever, wherever and by whomever they were committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and all counter-terrorism measures should be in compliance with international law, in particular, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

43. Emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism made it more difficult for national Governments, regional bodies and the international community to deal with that scourge. Nonetheless, enormous efforts were being made to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism on various fronts. In that connection, her delegation

commended the United Nations for its efforts, in particular those of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. It welcomed the convening of the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the signing of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

44. The Republic of Korea was aware that Member States had the primary responsibility for countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In that connection, her Government had passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2016 and established a centre to oversee the implementation of that law. It had also adopted its National Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, in which it had expressed its commitment to encouraging community dialogue and engagement, empowering youth and preventing misuse of the Internet and other media by terrorist groups.

45. At the regional level, her country was making continuous efforts to facilitate interregional dialogue and information-sharing on the prevention of violent extremism. It was a party to most of the international conventions regarding counter-terrorism and was a partner in the Tech Against Terrorism initiative. Recently, the Government had sponsored the launch of a knowledge-sharing platform which assisted small tech companies in assessing and mitigating their risks of being exploited by terrorists, while providing guidelines for content regulation.

46. Preventing the spread of violent extremism was key to curbing future terrorism. She stressed the importance of engaging communities and empowering young people to make society more resilient to terrorism and violent extremism. Increased civil society and private sector involvement would help establish more creative and inclusive ways of combating international terrorism.

47. **Ms. Ighil** (Algeria) said that preventing and combating terrorism required multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. The battle could clearly not be limited to repressive measures; a coherent political strategy was also needed.

48. Having suffered from the devastating effects of terrorism during the 1990s, Algeria had emerged as a safe and stable country in a region prone to instability and terrorist threats. It maintained a high level of vigilance and commitment in the fight against terrorism and radicalization. It focused its efforts on policies, strategies and development programmes to prevent the exclusion, marginalization, stigmatization and social injustice that were often exploited by terrorists in their propaganda for mobilization and recruitment purposes. Its efforts also involved promoting democracy, national reconciliation, deradicalization, human rights, good governance and living together in peace as effective antidotes to violent extremism and terrorism. Securing the borders and pursuing the fight against residual terrorism were also part of her Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy.

49. At the regional level, Algeria had developed strong bilateral cooperation ties with its neighbouring countries in key areas related to the fight against terrorism. In the Sahel region, the current context required both coordination and strengthening of the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of national ownership. Algeria was engaged in several cooperation mechanisms to strengthen border control measures as well as intelligence-sharing among the Sahel countries.

50. At the African level, Algeria hosted the headquarters of the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL) and the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), an African Union body that offered a high level of expertise in the fight against terrorism. A high-level meeting on countering terrorist financing in Africa had been held in Algiers in April 2018. In addition to ideological propaganda developed by terrorist groups and their sponsors via the dark web and encrypted platforms, financing remained key for radicalization and recruitment, especially among the most vulnerable segments of the population. The nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism in West Africa had been thoroughly discussed during a meeting organized by Algeria and Canada and held in Algiers in October 2017.

51. **Mr. Kazi** (Bangladesh) said that, while welcoming the outcome of the sixth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, his country encouraged Member States to approach the process with further courage and conviction, with a view to accommodating diverse views on combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was self-defeating to assume that there was only one template for combating terrorism. Any unwarranted divergence by Member States on fundamental issues only served the interests of terrorists and their sympathizers. Bangladesh welcomed the holding of the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018.

52. Despite its institutional efforts, Bangladesh still had difficulty with the duplication and overlapping in the work of different United Nations entities in support

of national entities. It remained engaged with the entities in question to rectify such problems and urged donors not to disperse resources among different bodies for more or less the same purpose. The need for United Nations bodies to undertake projects in response to nationally identified priorities instead of priorities identified from the perspective of resource availability could not be overemphasized.

53. The zero-tolerance approach to terrorism of political leaders in his country had resulted in the dismantlement of the operational capacity of certain home-grown terrorist outfits that claimed affiliation with regional or international networks. Sustained investments in capacity-building for the relevant law enforcement, intelligence and border management authorities had allowed Bangladesh to live up to its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist acts against any of its neighbours. Demonstrable progress had likewise been made in combating the financing of terrorism and in weakening the nexus between terrorist groups and transnational organized criminal networks.

54. The legal regime in Bangladesh gave effect to relevant Security Council resolutions through a specific institutional mechanism. The Government was currently setting up several special tribunals for prosecuting terrorism-related cases. Timely exchange of information for tracking and intercepting the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, especially those from expatriate communities abroad, was of special importance. His Government remained supportive of concluding a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention with a view to developing universal standards for counter-terrorism strategies and operations, in lieu of selective, unilateral benchmarks and criteria.

55. A whole-of-society approach had proved to be useful in preventing the spread of violent extremism and radicalization. The engagement of civil society in such initiatives had enhanced the awareness of law enforcement personnel of their human rights obligations. The authorities had maintained heightened vigilance along border areas with Myanmar since August 2017 after the influx of more than 700,000 Rohingya fleeing violence and persecution in Rakhine State. His Government reiterated its concern over the unfounded and repeated attempts by Myanmar to vilify the entire Rohingya population under the pretext of countering threats posed by a fringe extremist group. It urged Myanmar to consider the root causes of the radicalization of alleged home-grown terrorist outfits and called upon it to work with relevant United Nations entities to address violent extremist trends among communities other than the Rohingya in Rakhine State. No State or non-State actor should attempt to take advantage of the vulnerable situation of the Rohingya to radicalize them in any way that could affect the national security of Bangladesh and the wider region.

56. Bangladesh remained concerned over the asymmetric attacks and threats, including from terrorists, faced by its peacekeepers in a number of theatres. From its experience on the ground, it was convinced that peacekeepers should not be asked to engage in counter-terrorism operations.

57. **Ms. Werdaningtyas** (Indonesia) said that no country was immune to the menace of terrorism, which respected neither borders nor boundaries, and no country – no matter how powerful – could tackle it alone. Recently, Indonesia had experienced horrific terrorist attacks in its second-largest city, Surabaya. It was horrible to see that the terrorists now involved their families in their operations. Despite common efforts, terrorism remained what it had always been – a massive scourge that undermined peace and threatened the political, social and economic order of countries throughout the world. It continued to evolve, bringing unique challenges. The progress being made to counter ISIL, for example, was being undermined by the emerging trend of the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters. Terrorists continued to take advantage of technology to spread their propaganda and recruit followers. Attacks by the lone wolf or self-radicalized person continued to take place.

58. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, faith, race, value, culture, society or group. Her Government condemned all manifestations of terrorism from whatever source and for whatever reason or motivation. In a broader context, the increasing trend towards terror and violent extremism militated against national development strategies and placed the younger generations in perpetual jeopardy.

59. Indonesia had implemented a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy using a combination of hard and soft approaches, including deradicalization in prisons and community and family engagement. Young people and women were empowered as agents of peace and builders of community resilience against the spread of violent extremism. A revised anti-terrorism law had also recently been adopted, intended to equip the country to better respond to the new tactics and methods of terrorists and to implement international anti-terrorism conventions and Security Council resolutions. Additional revised legislation would guide efforts to improve border security and restrict the potential egress of foreign terrorist fighters.

60. Indonesia was in the final stages of launching its national action plan on countering violent extremism, the main aim of which was to address the conditions conducive to violent extremism, including the process of radicalization. It adopted a whole-of-society and whole-of-Government approach, espousing the principles of gender equality and youth empowerment. In May 2018, Indonesia had organized a high-level consultation of world Muslim scholars, the purpose of which had been to support the message of tolerance.

61. Her Government had always been uncompromising in fighting money-laundering and countering terrorist financing, including by working closely with the Financial Action Task Force, to which it had been granted observer status in June 2018. Indonesia wished to become a full member of the Task Force in the near future. It welcomed the adoption by consensus in June 2018 of the resolution on the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, signifying the firm commitment of the international community to stand together to fight terrorism and violent extremism. Prospects for success lay only in unity and common effort.

62. The difference in positions of Member States regarding the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, although limited to a small number of issues, remained wide. The development of a legal definition of terrorism was crucial in order to ensure uniform responses to terrorism throughout the world. In conclusion, she welcomed the organization of the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which had provided an opportunity to build new partnerships and to improve international cooperation and information-sharing.

63. **Mr. Carrillo Gómez** (Paraguay), expressing solidarity with the families of victims of terrorism, said that his delegation reaffirmed its commitment to achieving a world free of terrorism. Paraguay condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism and the protection of human rights were complementary and mutually reinforcing endeavours. It would continue to support all initiatives against terrorism that were multilateral in nature and complied with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

64. Against that background, Paraguay considered that the Security Council must scrupulously observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure the legitimacy, legality and proportionality of its counter-terrorism resolutions; it rejected any attempts to undermine the principle of prohibition of the use of force set out in the Charter, and favoured a restrictive interpretation of Article 41 of the Charter. It advocated the convening as soon as possible of a high-level international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an organized response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

65. During its recent visit to Paraguay, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had been able to observe the efforts being made by the authorities to adjust to the international counter-terrorism framework in all its aspects and to implement policies to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. The Committee had also been able to confirm the country's need for technical assistance and specialized equipment to ensure that policies for preventing terrorism and related transborder criminal activities were effectively implemented.

66. Paraguay was continuing to work domestically and inter-institutionally to improve its normative and institutional framework for combating terrorism and protecting human rights and to incorporate the most relevant international instruments on the subject into its legal order. In that connection, it wished to point out the difficulty it was having in using documents in English to submit input and reports on counter-terrorism to international organizations, as was the case with the Overview of Implementation Assessment and the Detailed Implementation Survey sent out by the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

67. Lastly, the Government had recently promulgated legislation on seized assets and confiscated property and had signed international instruments on the punishment for offences relating to civil aviation and unlawful seizure of aircraft. As a developing country, Paraguay stressed the importance of international cooperation, in the areas of financing, development of human resources, transfer of technology and inter-institutional coordination, in the struggle against terrorism.

68. **Mr. Dieng** (Senegal) said that his country strongly condemned all terrorist acts and practices in all their forms and manifestations; they were all just as unlawful as they were unjustifiable, irrespective of by whom they were committed. While paying tribute to the victims of terrorism, to whom the date of 21 August was rightly dedicated, he condemned any assimilation of Islam to violence or faulty stigmatization of Muslims as being responsible for violence, of which they themselves were sometimes the main victims.

69. Since it was impossible to come to terms with the increasingly insidious threat of terrorism alone, there was an urgent need for cooperation among States, international institutions and regional and subregional mechanisms. He solemnly appealed to all States to make combating terrorism a truly global struggle. He welcomed the adoption by consensus in June 2018 of the resolution on the sixth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the holding of the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. He also welcomed the adoption of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism initiated by Kazakhstan. It was also becoming increasingly imperative to make the comprehensive convention against international terrorism a reality.

70. Senegal was continuing to strengthen its legal arsenal for combating terrorism and preventing the financing of terrorism. It was a member of both international and Islamic coalitions against terrorism and had entered into various bilateral agreements on joint patrols for defence and security forces, exchanges of information and mutual legal assistance. It was also working to eradicate the root causes of terrorism by promoting education, including religious education; strengthening dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures; combating the prejudices and stereotypes that engendered the hatred that nourished terrorism; and creating the conditions for a decent life for all by combating poverty and promoting social justice.

71. **Ms. Bourhil** (Tunisia) said that the progress made in recent years in the struggle against terrorism, particularly in Iraq and Syria, where ISIL and Al-Qaida had seen their forces considerably diminished, represented only one victorious battle in a war that would drag on for some time. ISIL had adopted a new operational strategy by transforming itself into a clandestine global network. The return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families was an increasingly complex issue, generating considerable challenges as national authorities tried to set up legislative and operational frameworks to handle the problem. Those challenges were magnified by the passive and active involvement of women and children born in combat zones.

72. Another challenge was adapting to the evolving nature of terrorism, as the Internet was being used for purposes of radicalization and perpetration of terrorist attacks, especially with the emergence of new forms of financing, such as cryptocurrency, and the dark web. Public-private partnerships were indispensable in that regard, although caution was likewise needed: national strategies to remove terrorist content must conform to international obligations to respect individual liberties and States had to develop their expertise to face those significant developments.

73. The United Nations had been constantly evolving in order to confront the new challenges, including through the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the adoption of stronger Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on combatting terrorism. In the resolution recently adopted on the sixth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it had been necessary to address the means for responding to the evolving nature of terrorism, but other problems also deserved attention, such as the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism. Her delegation welcomed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism initiated by Kazakhstan, which should serve the common goal of promoting regional and international cooperation in the struggle against terrorism.

74. Having been a victim of terrorism, her country condemned all terrorist acts and was resolutely committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. If, as some thought, terrorism weakened social structures and regional and world security, then that made better international cooperation all the more crucial. The United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in June 2018 was a practical response to that challenge, but smaller-scale security networks also needed to be built to facilitate rapid information-sharing.

75. Tunisia had consolidated its legal, institutional and operational framework for combating terrorism. Since the adoption in 2015 of a law on combating terrorism and money-laundering, both the definition of terrorist offences and investigation and intelligence-gathering methods had been strengthened. More resources had been given to the security services and information-sharing improved. A governmental decree passed in January 2018 had instituted procedures for carrying out measures adopted by the competent United Nations authorities with regard to the suppression of terrorist financing.

76. Her Government had always had a humanistic approach and attached a priority to understanding the root causes of radicalization and setting up the necessary mechanisms to address them.

77. **Mr. Mika** (Namibia) said that a terrorist attack on any country was an attack on all countries. Terrorism, irrespective of its origins or the form it took, went against the values that Namibia shared with the

international community. Namibia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

78. Recognizing the importance of a coordinated global response to the ever-evolving global threat of terrorism, Namibia had recently adopted a number of legislative measures aimed at combatting and preventing international terrorism. They included a coherent and comprehensive law on financial intelligence, adopted in 2012, which had established a national centre responsible for collecting and analysing reports on suspicious transactions and activities that might relate to money-laundering or terrorist financing. Likewise, in 2012, a law had been passed on the safety of maritime navigation and the protection of airports and aircraft, which covered offences related to nuclear terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Continuing on the same trajectory, in September 2017, Namibia had launched e-border control management systems in order to effectively manage and mitigate the challenges associated with migration, which included, but were not limited to, cross-border crimes, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and terrorism.

79. Namibia condemned all acts of terrorism but considered that it was important to distinguish between acts of terrorism and the acts of people fighting against colonial or foreign domination, given that the country had been denied the right to self-determination for many years while under the administration of the South African apartheid regime. Namibia looked forward to stronger cooperation at the regional and multilateral levels in order to effectively address international terrorism.

80. *Ms. Kremžar (Slovenia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

81. **Mr. Machida** (Japan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and was deeply committed to countering that threat, which needed to be tackled through urgent and coordinated international efforts. Japan hoped to continue cooperating on effective counter-terrorism measures by providing human and financial resources to relevant organizations.

82. The threat of terrorism had been evolving and spreading globally. The importance of addressing the challenge posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including those that were returning and relocating, had been highlighted in the resolution adopted in June 2018 on the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and in Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). Pursuant to the latter resolution, Japan had been effectively using advance passenger information and passenger name records to detect and identify foreign terrorist fighters and terrorist networks. It would support efforts by the United Nations to provide technical assistance and capacity-building for such measures in other countries as well.

83. In addition to conventional counter-terrorism measures, efforts to prevent the violent extremism that was conducive to terrorism should be strengthened. Those efforts should cover areas such as education, economic development, employment and engagement with young people and women. It was necessary to collaborate with various actors, including international organizations, civil society, community leaders, non-governmental organizations and information technology companies. Japan had been providing financial support to United Nations projects related to the prevention of violent extremism, especially in Asia. As a responsible member of the international community, it would continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

84. **Mr. Ghafoorzai** (Afghanistan) said that the global landscape remained precarious, with terrorism remaining a dark reality in both conflict and non-conflict settings. The tide of terror continued to rise in different countries and regions, including in South Asia and Afghanistan, which was among the countries most affected by that global threat.

85. In 2018, his country had been hit by a new wave of attacks aimed at reversing its progress towards stability. In response, the Afghan security forces had stood firm, defending the country against many terrorist groups and preventing them from capturing and controlling major sections of the territory. Terrorist groups, including ISIL, had suffered setbacks on the battlefield. They had accordingly increased their attacks on religious centres and civilian spaces as a means of fomenting sectarian and other divisions.

86. Terrorism was part of a network of regional and mutually reinforcing criminal activities. Sustained and constructive cooperation within and across regions was an imperative that must not be compromised. Afghanistan was engaged in bilateral, trilateral and other endeavours to tackle terrorism and other transnational threats, including the Afghan-led Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process and its counter-terrorism confidence-building measures. Afghanistan was also working to finalize a regional strategy to reinforce counter-terrorism efforts under that Process.

87. Afghanistan was amending and strengthening its domestic legislation to meet the evolving threat of terrorism and its obligations under international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols to which it

was a party. Its security and judicial institutions were apprehending and prosecuting those involved in terrorist attacks and repatriating foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin. It had also recently finalized its strategy to counter violent extremism and to reinforce the whole-of-society approach in combating extremist narratives. Religious figures and civic groups were expected to play a prominent role under the strategy, which was also focused on advancing new economic opportunities. Structural cooperation was currently under way with the Office of Counter-Terrorism to further align its legislation with international counter-terrorism instruments.

88. Afghanistan had always placed a high value on the role of the United Nations in strengthening the global response to terrorism. It hoped that the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would lead to greater cooperation and more tangible results. Decisive action by States in denying any form of moral or material support or safe haven to terrorists was key to successful counter-terrorism measures. His Government also called for more efficient enforcement of Security Council sanction regimes in order to constrict the resources of terrorist groups and their ability to operate. It welcomed the fact that greater attention was now being given to supporting the rights of and providing assistance to victims of terrorism.

89. Afghanistan had sponsored resolution in which the General Assembly recognized 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. In 2018, Islamic scholars from Afghanistan had joined other clerics in the Islamic world in denouncing violence in Afghanistan and in amplifying the call for lasting peace in that country. More could be done at regional and global levels to enhance interreligious and intercultural understanding in order to institute a global culture of peace.

90. Increased cooperation between counter-terrorism agencies of States was of vital importance so as to decrease and eventually defeat terrorism worldwide. His Government commended the Secretary-General for organizing the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018 and supported periodic follow-up discussions within such a framework to facilitate progress towards meeting commitments made. It also called for real, tangible progress towards concluding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would reinforce broader international counter-terrorism efforts.

91. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's abiding and longstanding commitment to combating and defeating international terrorism.

92. **Mr. Mostafa** (Iraq) said that his delegation reiterated its firm condemnat on of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and wherever it occurred. The phenomenon was constantly changing and threatened the universal quest for peace and security. In the heinous crimes of terrorists against public institutions and civilians, no distinction was made among faiths, religions or races. Iraq was among the countries most severely affected by terrorism and had fought against ISIL in the interests of the entire world. Terrorist acts were unjustified, whatever the underlying circumstances, reasons and aims.

93. His country had adopted measures to bring an end to that dangerous scourge, particularly by strengthening cooperation among countries at the regional and international level and by working under the auspices of the United Nations to punish the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Iraq had acceded to most of the international and regional instruments on countering terrorism. The Government was seeking to bolster its legal framework while respecting the rules of human rights. It had promulgated legislation on money-laundering and terrorism financing and the freezing the assets of terrorists.

94. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was now a reference for cooperation between the United Nations and Member States in anti-terrorism measures. It was crucial to implement the Strategy in a consistent, holistic manner. His delegation welcomed the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in June 2018, which represented an opportunity to strengthen collective efforts to combat terrorism.

95. Iraq had experienced brutal attacks against its people, its land and its culture. Nevertheless, the Iraqi people had been able to inflict a crushing defeat upon the terrorists, with the help of the international coalition. However, despite the military victories against ISIL, that group was continuing to sow the seeds of destruction and death throughout the world in the name of Islam, posing a threat to international peace and security.

96. **Mr. Nguyen** Nam Duong (Viet Nam) said that his Government's consistent position was to condemn all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation. Perpetrators of terrorist acts must be severely punished. Viet Nam supported the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community undertaken on the basis of compliance with international

law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and through the codification and progressive development of international law, especially with the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

97. In order to eliminate terrorism, measures should be taken to address its root causes, including political, economic and social inequalities. All disputes should be resolved by peaceful means, in accordance with international law, while respecting diplomatic and legal processes, including procedures at international judicial institutions. Viet Nam had made important progress in improving its domestic legal system to ensure the prosecution and extradition of terrorist criminals and had accelerated the implementation of its national plan of action on the prevention of money-laundering and terrorist financing.

98. Viet Nam was a party to 14 multilateral treaties on counter-terrorism and had signed bilateral treaties with more than 40 countries on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition. It had welcomed and actively participated in the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies held in June 2018. It had recently decided to accede to the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan. Like other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Viet Nam was implementing the organization's convention and plan of action on counter-terrorism. It was also working closely with ASEAN members in various regional mechanisms.

99. In implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, his country had once again reaffirmed its determination in the fight against terrorism. It stood ready to cooperate with other States and the international community in accordance with international law and the Charter in that endeavour.

100. **Ms. AlMatrooshi** (United Arab Emirates) said that all countries and all peoples faced extremist and terrorist threats, which became more complex as terrorist and extremist groups acquired and used advanced weapons and information technology to recruit thousands of fighters around the world and to finance and plan attacks remotely. Terrorist and extremist groups had become a tool in the implementation of the political agendas of rogue countries in order to undermine international stability and security. Although significant progress had been made against such groups, in particular in Iraq and Syria, more progress was still needed, especially in light of emerging challenges, including the return of foreign terrorist fighters and the appearance of new terrorist cells.

101. Given the global and intricate nature of terrorism and extremism, the response to them should be premised on two main elements. First, it should be global in nature, with the mobilization of resources and the promotion of cooperation, exchange of information and expertise among States, taking into account the special context of each State and region. Second, it should be comprehensive, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism. That meant combating recruitment and cutting off financing for terrorist groups, denying them territories and weapons and rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters.

102. Her country had adopted a comprehensive approach to countering terrorism and extremism, addressing both the security and ideological aspects of the problem. It had acceded to more than 15 regional and international conventions and had set up a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorist ideology and to criminalize incitement to violence, hatred and the desecration of religions. Current priorities in respect of counter-terrorism included promoting regional and international cooperation and exchange of information and expertise with all relevant parties; countering terrorist ideology, including by empowering women and young people, training religious leaders and promoting tolerance; and combating the use of the Internet and other technologies by terrorist and extremist groups.

103. Her country called on Member States to renew their commitment to international law and the Charter of the United Nations in order to hold to account countries that violated the norms and rules underpinning the international order, especially those that supported and financed terrorist groups.

104. **Mr. Salah** (Libya) said that terrorism, which should not be associated with any religion, belief or culture, had continued to spread and was now a grave challenge for all States – small, large, rich or poor. The fight against terrorism required a joint commitment from the international community. Counter-terrorism efforts at the international level would never be complete and would only be limited in scope without proper coordination. His country firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of the causes or motivations. It complied with all relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It welcomed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, initiated by Kazakhstan.

105. Libya had faced and continued to face terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, who had been able to infiltrate the different regions of the country, exploiting political and security instability to perpetrate terrorist acts. His Government had confronted terrorism using all the means at its disposal and by making great sacrifices which had resulted in victories over the terrorist groups. However, terrorism remained a transborder issue. That was why his country had participated in ministerial meetings in neighbouring countries on border security and surveillance, resulting in a plan of action which, it hoped, would be supported by the international community.

106. Irregular migration was a human tragedy and a source of suffering, not only for migrants but also for transit countries, including Libya, which was facing economic, social and security repercussions on a grand scale. Some of the migrants had been found to have been involved in terrorist networks and had already committed murder, bombings and other attacks against innocent civilians. All countries of origin of such migrants should therefore police their borders and strive to ensure that migration was regular and orderly, with respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity. The international community should also support development within such countries and assist them in addressing the challenges affecting the daily lives of their citizens.

107. There was no alternative to strengthening international cooperation to tackle terrorist networks. Strong political determination that could guarantee the fulfilment of all commitments under the relevant international instruments was needed. Addressing the dangers and risks of terrorism meant addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, including protracted conflict and absence of the rule of law, violations of human rights, discrimination, exclusion and social and economic marginalization.

108. The Security Council should assume its responsibility to punish those involved in terrorist attacks, invoking Chapter VII of the Charter if necessary. The capacities of all States to tackle the terrorist threat and bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist attacks must be strengthened. Lastly, sustainable development in developing countries must be facilitated by eradicating unemployment and improving the service and production sectors. The composition of terrorist bodies and their aims and sources of funding, as well as the role of foreign terrorist fighters within such organizations must be scrutinized.

109. **Mr. Phonekeo** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that acts of terrorism not only led to the loss of life and injury but also impeded the social and economic development of nations and created a climate of fear and injustice in societies. His Government condemned all acts of terrorism. As a peace-loving nation, the Lao People's Democratic Republic made every effort to prevent and suppress the common threat of terrorism. It was a party to most of the international conventions on counter-terrorism and was taking action to fulfil its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. At the regional level, it was working closely with the ASEAN member countries; it was a party to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and had signed on to various joint declarations on combating international terrorism. At the national level, it was cooperating with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Office of Counter-Terrorism in conducting workshops and seminars to promote awareness among the population and among government sectors of international counter-terrorism efforts.

110. **Mr. Hidug** (Ethiopia) said that terrorism posed a growing challenge to peace and security and no country could claim to be immune from terrorist threats. The fight against terrorism accordingly required a globally coordinated response, and the need for enhanced cooperation among regional and international organizations could not be overemphasized. Terrorism was a complex and ever-changing phenomenon in terms of its motivation, financing and support mechanisms, methods of attack and choice of targets. There was therefore a need for frequent revisions of national and international counter-terrorism strategies and instruments.

111. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided a framework for enhancing national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional mechanisms should continue to play a vital role in promoting counter-terrorism cooperation. The Security Council counter-terrorism architecture, which included the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, was an important global framework for combating terrorism and violent extremism. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Ethiopia worked closely with that Committee and Executive Directorate and other United Nations entities on counter-terrorism issues. Despite the significant progress made through those and other frameworks, international cooperation to address the threat of terrorism was still not fully effective and terrorists continued to pose serious threats to international peace and security.

112. The fight against terrorism must primarily be focused on its root causes, and the response of the international community had to be long-term and multi-pronged, addressing various conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Particular attention had to be devoted to dissuading elements in society that were bent on fomenting hatred and hostility from exploiting disadvantaged segments of the population to engage in violence and carry out acts of terrorism. Instead, it was necessary for the international community to work hard to promote mutual tolerance, co-existence and respect for each other's sensitivities.

113. In that connection, the legal frameworks at various levels should be supplemented by a culture of dialogue, understanding, tolerance, consultation and cooperation. It was crucial to combat the social exclusion of groups and individuals by ensuring that their values were respected and that they had equal opportunities in society. Governments, faith-based institutions, civil society and other stakeholders should be encouraged to inculcate members of society, particularly young people, with the values of cultural tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and the rule of law. It was also important to work towards ensuring economic and social security and the advancement of citizens.

114. Collective action was the key to combating terrorism. In that regard, the Ethiopian Government had ratified 9 of the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols that obliged parties to penalize the perpetrators of offences defined in such instruments, and had also ratified a number of regional counter-terrorism instruments. It had enacted domestic laws against money-laundering and terrorism and provided training to law enforcement and other concerned officials on the laws aimed at combating terrorism. The Government had also undertaken major reforms to foster socioeconomic development, expand the political space and ensure the rule of law, media freedom and respect for human rights.

115. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's support for the convening of an international summit under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including identifying its root causes, and called for the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.